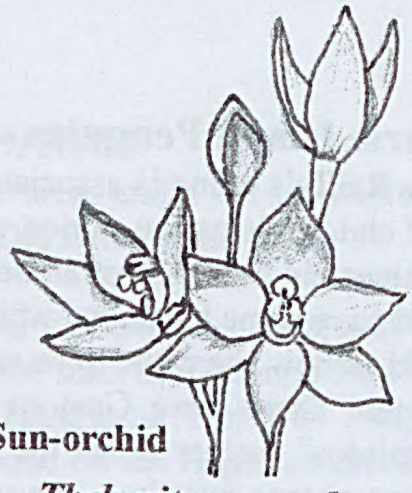
Castlemaine Naturalist

November 2004
Vol. 28.10 #316



Scented Sun-orchid
Thelymitra megcalyptra

BOCA CHALLENGE BIRD COUNT

Saturday December 4, 2004

WANTED 10 - 12 observers (minimum number needed to cover the area thoroughly). You don't have to be an expert birdo - each group will have a qualified leader. We need ears, eyes and recorders who must be able to count to more than 10 !!!!!

OBJECTIVE To record not only the species of birds, but count the actual numbers within a 40 km radius of Castlemaine.

MEET at the Octopus opposite Castle Motel in Duke St.

TIME 8.15 am for a 8.30 am start for morning or all day trip.
All-dayers - bring snacks, lunch and drinks, etc.
Meet 12.45 pm for afternoon only - bring afternoon tea.
Lunch break between the two half day trips - 12.15 to 1 pm at the Octopus.

RETURN All groups to return to the Octopus by 5.30 pm SHARP to finalise collation and completion of the survey.

Thank you again to the 13 enthusiastic volunteers who participated in last year's BOCA Bird Challenge.

Just to refresh your memory, we recorded a good number of species (111) but the overall numbers of birds counted was quite a bit down on previous years, with several regular species either being "AWOL" or in very small numbers.

Interestingly, most inland areas counts were down on numbers, while the "water" areas, e.g. Portland, Echuca-Tongala, Cohuna , recorded very high overall totals.

Hopefully, after some better winter and spring rains, this year we may get more numbers back in the area.

Ken Dredge

It is VITAL to ADVISE US BY WED. DEC 1. if you are able to take part so that we can be organized for the day.
Ken and Maureen Dredge 5470 6474

Macquarie Island Penguins - Pauline Reilly 8/10/04

Pauline Reilly's name is associated with the first Bird Atlas and she has written a number of children's nature stories, some of which she had with her.

Unfortuneately Pauline lost all her slides in the 1983 fires, along with her cameras, but she did have some black and white photos to hand around.

She told us how she came to be studying penguins on Macquarie Island after a visit one summer. There were Gentoos near the station and the Macaronis with their "loutish hairdos" further down the coast. The Macaronis were not at all afraid and when taking photos one time, she was standing in the middle of a group which had surrounded her and as they were too close, she had to lean back to get them in focus - only to find they leant forward!

Pauline found that there was very little information on the birds when she got back to Melbourne and decided that a study of them might help her understand our own Little Penguins a bit better. Eventually she was accepted to do a study with an assistant.Her studies covered four different areas and species.

They found the Gentoos quite capable of a bit of aggression - whacking with their flippers, pecking and turning around and spraying their victims with faeces! The day always ended with baths and clothes being washed!

The King Penguins were her favourites. They are very elegant but handling them for weighing etc., could be very tricky as their feathers came out very easily and the researchers could find themselves working in a cloud of fine feathers.

They studied weight, nesting birds, and eggs, and chicks were marked with purple dye to trace movements, food requirements and moulting patterns. One of her experiences with King Penguins happened one day while she was actually studying another species. One bird walked up to her, ran its beak around her shoe, walked all around her, then emptied everything out of her kit bag, apparently just to see what was in there.

On another occasion they got lost in the fog on the way to the King Penguin colony. Eventually they got a glimpse of a bog that shouldn't have been where they were going. Having a reference point at last they studied their map and got back to the station. The next day was fine and sunny and they were able to reach the colony without any trouble.

They also visited 750,000 Royal Penguins on a steep scree slope of about 1500 metres where the smell was appalling! The fieldwork was hard and tiring - and smelly - but immensely interesting. Not all the work was done in the field of course - each "night" there was about 10 hours work just writing up reports and summaries .

There were 24 summer "visitors", as the 18 "expeditionists" (overwinterers) called them, while they were on the island. Needless to say there was lots of good fun as well as hard work, especially at Christmas time, when the "dress-up box" was raided and work clothes were discarded for much more elegant attire.

Rita Mills

Outing to Humbolt, 9/10/04

As usual Ern had a handout for us - a map of the area, and a list of plants for the Humbolt-Belltopper area, south of Taradale off the Old Drummond Road.

The area is a week or two behind Castlemaine as far as flowering goes, and the Tall Greenhoods were nicely in flower still. Several plants, such as Common Bird Orchids are seldom seen around the town area, but the Handsome Flat Pea *Platylobium formosum,* which was just coming into flower, is found on the ridges at Glenluce and Chewton, but in a slightly different form. The Gold-dust Wattle was nowhere to be seen although it is on the plant list for the area, and the Gorse Bitter-pea was just coming into flower.

The special flower for the afternoon was the *Grevillea obtecta,* the very variable and rare Fryerstown Grevillea, which was in flower. This is one of the plants we are looking for in the Roadside Surveys for the Threatened Species Network.

Some of the other plants in flower were; Pinkbells *Tetratheca cilliata,* two Beard-heaths, a beautifully coloured *Grevillea alpina,* lots of pink and white Common Heath, a few Waxlips, the Ivy-leaf Violet *Viola hederacea,* the Matted Bossiaea *Bossiaea buxifolia,* a favourite of mine which I've only seen at Daylesford before this outing, and even a few *Hovea heterophylla* still in flower.

Down in the damp gully was the best place for birds, and we spotted a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike on its precarious nest.
Birds for the day were;
Black-faced and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes, Grey Fantail, Yellow-faced, Fuscous, White-naped and White-eared Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalote, Crimson Rosellas, White-throated Treecreeper, Long-billed Corella, Galah, Magpie, Crested Shrike-tit, Olive-backed Oriole, Kookaburra, Yellow and Scarlet Robins, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Currawong, Common Bronzewing and Dusky Woodswallow, oh, and three Blackbirds.

Rita Mills

Papua New Guinea – 13-26 September 2004.

In the East to Middle Sepik area we saw many large Egrets nesting on reeds by the river, Brahminy Kites, Nankeen Night Herons and Whistling Kites. At Wewak and in the East Sepik Province we saw Rufous banded Honeyeaters and a Hornbill.

The only birds of paradise I saw were in the Botanical Gardens at port Moresby; on peoples' heads for decoration or in the markets where people were trying to sell whole birds to me for 50 Kina ($25)!

Joy Weatherill

Grindell Hut Report – 11-18th October 2004

Gammon Ranges National Park headquarters at Balanoona was our rendezvous –
Bill and Robyn van Smeerdijk came via Eyre and York Peninsulas;
Chris and Helen Morris drove directly from Castlemaine;
Hans and Anne van Gemert came via Glue Pot and the Eyre Peninsula;
Nina and John Cole drove via Mutawinji and Innamincka.

Reptiles seen included a Flying Snake(!), Sand Goanna and Shingle-back Lizards (mate seeking).

Iga Warta is the Cultural Centre for the local Adnyamathanha Aboriginal People. We found the tour highlighting useful food and medicinal plants worthwhile. The walk to a cave painting site was through porcupine grass "meadows".

Native orange in flower; native pine forests; grass trees of a great age.

Daily birding trips: to Weetootla Springs and Gorge and Italowie Gorge.

Excellent camaraderie.

Log ladders had to be negotiated en route to Bunyip Gorge and Amphitheatre; sheer rock faces were "awesome".

Lots of annuals were flowering because of 30mls of rain ten days earlier.

Heat – record high temperatures for Adelaide so at Grindell Hut it was probably 40oC plus.

Unlimited spectacular scenery.

Thanks to Hans and Anne for organizing this special week.

Nina Cole

Concerning Plants – Grindell's Hut

Previous rain had stimulated many COMPOSITAE (Daisy and Everlasting family) to flower, particularly on the ridges. In the valley and pounds there were many CHENOPODIACEAE (Saltbush Family).

White Cypress-pine *Callitris glaucophylla*: timber is termite resistant – used in buildings and stockyards
Quandong *Santalum acuminatum:* fruit bright red, globular with large deeply pitted stones

Concerning Plants (continued)

New Zealand Spinach *Tetragonia tetragonoides:* cooked as a 'spinach like' vegetable by early explorers.

Native Orange *Capparis mitchellii*: large creamy flowers with long prominent stamens

Dead Finish *Acacia tetragonophylla*: 'leaves' clustered, slender, needle-like; deep yellow globular flower

Elegant Wattle (Prickly Wattle) *Acacia victoriae*: spines on the branches at the base of the leaves; pale cream globular flowers

Butterfly Bush *Petalostylis labicheiodes*: flowers deep yellow with red markings

Bulloch Bush *Alectryon* oleifolius: grows in groves and has an olive like foliage

Jockey's Cap (Striated Mint-bush): stringy aromatic with large white flowers with prominent purple stripes in the throat

Curry Bush *Cassinia laevis*: aromatic leaves – curry like smell when crushed

Rock Emubush *Eremophila freelingii*: flowers lilac in colour and borne on downy and sticky stalks in leaf axis

Rock Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*: in creek bed leading to the Bunyip Chasm

Lemon Grass *Cymbopogon ambious*: makes a refreshing drink by infusion

Porcupine Grass *Trioda irritans*: provides shelter for small animals, particularly lizards

Acknowledgements:
Cunningham et al 'Plants of western NSW' NSW Printing Office 1981
Our Aborininal guide "Sharpie" (Born Mt. Hopeless, now lives at Mt. Remarkable)
Botanical names - Preliminary Flora List, Gammon Ranges National Park, September 2003

John Cole

Bird List – Grindell's Hut

Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike	Black Kite	Brown Falcon
Chestnut-rumped Thornbills	Chirruping Wedgebill	Emus
Galah	Golden Whistler	Inland Thornbill
Jacky Winter	Little Corellas	Magpie
Peaceful Dove	Pied Butcherbird	Raven
Red-backed Kingfisher	Red-browed Pardolote	Red-capped Robin,
Rufus Whistler	Skylark	Southern Whiteface
Splendid Wren	Spotted Pardolote,	Striated Pardolote
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-browed Babblers	White-plumed H/Eater
Willy Wagtail	Zebra Finches	

Also Rock Wallabies, West. Grey Kangaroos, Stumpy Lizards, Pale-orange Lizards.

Robyn van Smeerdijk

Botanical Notes

Acacia name changes. There are over 1350 species of Acacia in the world. Recent studies show that there are at least 5 distinct groups, and that Acacia should be divided into 5 different genera. An overseas Acacia (*A. nilotica*) was the first Acacia to be named. This is called the type species, and would remain as an Acacia. This means that 948 Australian Acacias would have a name change, probably to Racosperma The gender would also be different, so, for example, *Acacia pycnantha* would change to *Racosperma pycnanthum.*

A proposal by Bruce Maslin and Tony Orchard to the International Association of Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) was that the type species be changed to the Australian Hickory Wattle (*Acacia penninervis*). This proposal has been accepted by a sub-committee of the IAPT. The proposal still has to be ratified by the General Committee of the IAPT, and the International Botanical Congress to be held in Vienna in 2005. So Australia's floral emblem may remain and Acacia.

A New Acacia for the Castlemaine District. One of the first excursions of the CFNC was to Fryers Ridge. During the excursion, Geoff Sitch found a new Acacia. No further specimens were found, despite repeated searches. There were only five plants. The number fell, and at present there are only three. The species has at last been given a name. In the Autumn 2004 issue of *Muellerina,* Neville Walsh has formally named it *Acacia sporadica,* the name referring to its sporadic occurrence. The major population is in the Strathbogies. It is a suckering species, so the population in Fryers Ridge may be only one individual.

Lots of Slender Sun Orchids. In the same issue of *Muellerina,* Jeffrey Jeanes has split the Slender Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) into about a dozen different species. Four or five of these are to be found in our district. Identification will be a challenge to our orchidologists. I will try to prepare a key for our local species. In the meantime, add s.l. after *pauciflora*, to indicate that it is a lax identification.

A hybrid Acacia. One of the interesting plants seen on the outing to the Polinellis on Mia Mia Road, was the hybrid between Rough Wattle and Varnish Wattle. *Muellerina* has a report of such a hybrid growing along the Hume Highway near Benalla, and has the comment that such a hybrid was previously unknown. We know of another.

More Senecios. Senecios include the fireweeds. Some Senecios have typical Daisy ray-flowers. In others (the disciform species) the petals are enclosed in the outer green bracts. It has long been known that some of our local bushland species are very variable, and probably contain more than one species. In another interesting article, *Muellerina* has a revision of the disciform species with a number of new species described. Another challenge.

Ern Perkins

Wednesday Evening Wildflower Walks

Private property off Yapeen/ Muckleford Rd.

29/9/04. Leader: Penny Garnett.

Acacia acinacea Gold-dust Wattle
Arthropodium strictum Chocolate Lily
Caladenia gracilis Musky Hood (on neighbouring property)
Diuris pardina Leopard Orchid
Drosera peltata ssp auriculata Tall Sundew
Glossodia major Wax-lip Orchid
Lazula meridionalis CommonWood-rush
Levenhookia dubia Hairy Stylewort
Millotia sp
Senicio tenuiflorus Slender Groundsel

Lewis Road/ Carpenters Lane, Muckleford. 6/10/04. Leader: Frances Cincotta. About 25/6 adults and children walked towards the Railway Crossing but the flowers were so profuse we didn't even get that far! The find of the day was just one specimen of *Thelymitra macmillanii* Crimson Sun-orchid

Arthropodium strictum Chocolate Lily
Acacia acinacea Gold-dust Wattle
Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle
Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids
Caladenia gracilis Musky Hood
Caladenia pusilla Tiny Pink Fingers
Calochilus robertsonii Purple Beard-orchid
Chrysocephalum apiculatum sp agg Common Everlasting
Daviesia leptophylla Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Daviesia ulcifolia Gorse Bitter-pea
Drosera peltata ssp auriculata Tall Sundew
Glossodia major Wax-lip Orchid
Grevillea alpina Downy Grevillea
Hibbertia exutiacies SpikyGuinea-flower
Leucopogonvirgatu CommonBeardheath
Microseris sp 3 Yam daisy
Philotheca verrucosa Fairy Wax-flower
Pimilea linifolia Slender Rice-flower
Pterostylis nana Dwarf Greenhood
Pterostylis nutans Nodding Greenhood
Tetratheca ciliata Pink Bells
Thelymitra antennifera Rabbit-ears
Thelymitra ixioides Dotted Sun-orchid
*Thelymitra megcalyptra*ScentedSun-orc.
Thelymitra rubra Salmon Sun-orchid

Kalimna Circuit Track. 22/10/04 Leader: Richard Piesse

Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle
Arthropodium strictum Chocolate Lily
Brachyloma daphnoides Daphne Heath
Buchardia umbellata Milkmaids
Calochilus robertsonii Purple Beard-orchid
Calytrix tetragona Common Fringe-myrtle
Daviesia leptophylla Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Daviesia ulcifolia Gorse Bitter-pea
Dianella admixta Black-anther Flax-lily
Drosera macrantha Climbing Sundew
Drosera peltata ssp auriculata Tall Sundew
Dyllwinia sericea Showy Parrot-pea
Galium gaudichaudi Rough Bedstraw
Goodenia Blackiana Black's Goodenia
Grevillea alpina Downy Grevillea
*Lomandra multiflora*Many-flo'd Matrush
Microseris sp 3 Yam Daisy
Ozothamnus obcordatus GreyEverlasting
Philotheca verrucosa Fairy Wax-flower
Pimilea linifolia Slender Rice-flower
*Prostanthera denticulata*RoughMintbush
*Rhytidosporum procumbens*WhiteMarianth
Senicio tenuiflorus Slender Groundsel
Tetratheca ciliata Pink-Bells
Wahlenbergia stricta Tall Bluebell
*Xerochrysum viscosum*StickyEverlasting

Observations

- Chris Morris et al reported lots of Gorse Bitter-pea, Gold-dust Wattle, Billy Buttons and **3 species of Pink Fingers** on the Monk, as well as a very nice patch of Crimson Spider Orchids. Chris also put up a **Spotted Nightjar** off the main track on the Monk.
- Another very good patch of **Crimson Spider Orchids** were located by the group doing the Roadside surveys further down Dingo Farm Road on a side track - with the help of Muriel Sovar.
- Debbie Worland reported that the **Swift Parrots left the Golf Course in October** but they have been replaced by about 150 - 200 Purple-crowned Lorikeets. She also commented that the White-browed Babblers seem to be disappearing from the course.
- Stuart Morris had been out to the Red White and Blue Mine and Smiths Reef and was very **impressed by the numbers of wildflowers** in the bush at both localities.
- Richard Piesse's comment regarding the Wednesday walk- " it took us **1½ hours to walk 150 metres** because of the mass of flowers".
- 19/10 Coming home from his early morning walk through a bush paddock near Barkers Creek Alan Mills was **swooped by two Australian Ravens** which have nested there for some years, at the edge of a clearing.
- Late one afternoon after September rains we saw a platypus foraging in Barkers Creek. It was still there when we returned to an hour or so later. Natasha Harris
- While we were watching, **a young Grey Shrike-thrush was attacked by a Red Wattlebird**. It was quickly defended by an adult bird which shepherded it behind a bush for safety. Unfortunately the young bird died shortly afterwards from its injuries. Geraldine Harris
- **Fuscous Honeyeaters have been ganging up on Red Wattlebirds** in our garden. Hans van Gemert
- On the way home from the Flinders Ranges between Broken Hill and Wentworth Chris Morris was **attacked by a suite of birds**, including a Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Noisy Miners and Apostlebirds, as he opened a parcel of food.
- Last Autumn Nigel Harland noted a flock of about two dozen **Rainbow Bee-eaters** heading north and during the 3rd week in October he noticed a similar flock heading along the same route but this time they were flying south. Were they the same birds returning?
- Nigel also spent two days at the Werribee Sewerage Farm but failed to sight a **Ruff** that had been seen by "eminent birdoes" 2-3 days previously.
- 3/11 We watched a **Letter-winged Kite** as it repeatedly hovered over the long grass in the paddock in search of prey. Geraldine Harris

The Magic of Bartley's Paddock, Chiltern

Thirty or so acres of former paddock gradually being repossessed by golden and silver wattles, most of the latter groaning under the weight of their masses of late August blossom. The paddock was fringed predominantly by mugga ironbark's with their very glaucous foliage, hanging from which, like trusses of golden hair, were mistletoes - their yellowish-green leaves contrasting markedly with those of the ironbarks.

Everpresent in the background was a cacophony of red wattlebird calls coming from all sides interspersed by the penetrating peep-peep-peep of the noisy miner. Despite the preponderance of these bossy, territorial birds we struck gold: a varied sitella, a crested shrike-tit, a golden whistler, a mistletoe bird in full sunlight (is it a scarlet robin or not?); the occasional crested pigeon, the ever-present willy wagtail every so many metres, the vigilant little yellow robins, jacky winters galore, a red-browed firetail here and there, the occasional call of the pallid cuckoo. And on the second morning, as opposed to the previous late afternoon visit, came the real reward - mistaken momentarily for just another wattlebird as it flew across with very wattlebird-like beat of its wings – the noisy friarbird sitting atop a dead treecrown basking in the sun affording a perfect view. His necklace of silvery-white feathers was his most distinctive feature other than his black, bald friar's head of course.

Bruce Davidson.

Conglomerate Gully Flora and Fauna Reserve 12/10/04

- Observations on a 3 km. circuit walk near Riddells Creek.

The wildflowers blooming were:- Stackhousia, Common Beard-heath, Large-leaf Bush-pea, Common Maidenhair, Drooping Mistletoe, Early Nancy, Love Creeper, HedgeWattle, Yellow Wood-sorrel, Common Bird-orchid, Tall Sundew, Waxlip Orchids, Black-anther or Spreading Flax-lily, Ivy-leaved Violets, Yam Daisies, Donkey Orchids, Hoary Sunray, Musk Caladenia, Pink Fingers, Chocolate Lilies, Norrow-leaf Bitter-pea, many Twining Fringe Lilies that are conspicuous now they are flowering, Tall Daisy, Rock Fern, Prickly Moses, Tufted Bluebell, Grass Trigger Plant, Blue Pincushion in bud and various sedges which I could not identify.

There was also a pair of White-throated Treecreepers and a Pied Cormorant and a lot of conglomerate rock!

Joy Weatherill

Melton Rd. Gisborn

– walking for 1 km. in a southerly direction from Willowbank Rd.

The flowers I noted were Nodding Greenhoods (hundreds, nearly finished), Golden Moths, Tall Greenhoods, Common Bird Orchids, Austral indigo, Hedge wattle, Grey Parrot-pea, Early Nancy, and Hoary Sunray.

Joy Weatherill

Not a "conference" but an "unkindness" of ravens!

Back in the June one of our observations reported a "conference" of ravens instead of an "unkindness" of ravens and this prompted Bruce Donaldson to write referring to P2500 in the third edition of the Macquarie Dictionary where a wonderful list of collective nouns is revealed. Sourced mainly in medieval times " purportedly as technical hunting terms", whether they were ever actually used or not is doubtful. Some that might be relevant to FN reporters are:- a clattering of choughs; a murder of crows; a charm of finches; a knot of frogs; a desert of lapwings; tidings of magpies; a parliament of owls; and a murmuration of starlings – and there are more!

Editor: Unfortunately due to lack of space this article has been held over for some time but I am pleased to finally have space to print it.
Thank you also to all the members who have contributed articles this month.

SEANA Get Together at Mallacoota
October 14-18, 2005.

Members will need to book their own accommodation and supply their own breakfasts and lunches. Evening meals will be provided at the Mallacoota Golf Club. Excursions will depart from the area around Betka Road and Mallacoota College. The Sale and District Field Naturalists Club suggest you make your own bookings fairly soon.

The **A'Wrangalea Caravan park, 78 Betka Road (Ph 5158 0222),** is the preferred accommodation option. The owner is offering a discount to SEANA members – depending on the number of campsites and cabins occupied by the Field Nats. Members staying one week will have the 7th night free.

Other accomodation close to A'Wrangalea includes:
Silver Bream Units, 32 Maurice Ave. Ph 5158 0305 4x2 BR units + ahouse with 3 BR (1QS, 2 singles, 1single +bunk)

Grevillea Grove Flats, 32 Bruce St. Ph 5158 0223 - 4and 5 star accommodation with linen and towels provided. 5x2 BR units, 1x1BR unit.

Harbour Lights Flats, 88 Betka Rd., Ph 5158 0246

****Remember to say you are from SEANA to request a discount.

Beachcomber Caravan Park, 8 Betka Rd., Ph 5158 0233 is almost opposite so is also coveniently located. No discount available.
13 cabins. Owners also own log cabins and lakeside. units

Additional accommodation and information available from Ern Perkins.

Shearwaters at Phillip Island

The sale of my Colles Rd. property helped us buy a property on Phillip Island. With the added benefits of running water, electricity, no gorse or blackberries and 5 acres less to mow we are frequently using our beach house.

The reason I'm writing is we have a shearwater colony at the end of our street; five minutes walk away. At 7pm on Sunday October 3rd, I was returning from walking my dog along the beach as usual. As we walked up the path from the beach we had shearwaters all around us; at one stage six were walking on the path in front of us. It was such a fantastic experience I thought you may have been interested.

Gilbert Smith

From the Business Meeting 26/8/04

Welcome to new members: Jan and Lisa Hall

Roadside cleanup on 23/20/04. The three people who attended successfully cleaned the area and reported less litter than normal.

Further developments at the Erin Court Swift Parrot site.

(a)A Trust for Nature Covenant is to be placed on Lot 9 containing the roosting site of the Swift Parrots and the four lots opposite (feeding sites) have been rezoned as Rural Residential lots subject to clause 173 allowing only minimum clearing of native vegetation. The remaining lots are already cleared agricultural land.

(b) The final draft of the Swift Parrot Habitat Plan for Mt Alexander Shire has been completed by Julie Kirkwood.

The **Archery Club** written to draw attention to plants of interest on their land and have granted permission to Field Naturalist members to climb through their fence in order to inspect them.

Extra Events for your Calendar

Feb. 2006 Australian Naturalist's Network. The fourth Campout in Feb 2006 is to be held at Harrietville / Perisher Valley or Jindabyne. If interested register intention to attend.

Fri. Mar. 11 – Mon. Mar. 14. 2005. South Eastern Naturalists' Association Autumn Campout – Exploring our Forests and Waterways. Host: The Upper Goulburn FN Club. See October Newsletter for details.

Articles Welcome - Articles, reports and observations can be left at Tonks Bros. in Barkers St. or sent to Geraldine Harris, P.O.Box 184, Castlemaine, 3450.
Ph. 5474 2244, or gedharris@castlemaine.net
Please submit articles by the fourth Thursday of the month.

Disclaimer - The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme- November 04

General meetings are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm on the second Friday of each month, except January.
Excursions are usually on the Saturday following the general meeting and leave promptly at the times stated from The Octopus, opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days. BYO morning and afternoon tea.
Business meetings are held at 27 Doveton Street on the fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

Fri. Nov.12. ***Wombat Community Forest Management*** Tim Anderson.UCA Hall 8pm
Sat. Nov.13. ***South German Mine Area, Maldon.*** Leader: Ern Perkins,
Ph. 5472 3124. Leave Octopus at 1.30pm sharp. Good birding -bring binoculars.
Sat. Dec. 4. ***Annual Bird Challenge.*** (See details page 1)
Fri. Dec. 10. ***Members and Visitors Night.*** A traditional "Show and Tell" night. Bring along a few slides to share of a favourite place or subject, present a book review or an anecdote of a club outing you particularly enjoyed. Be as creative as you like. Bring a plate of supper. 8pm. UCA Hall.
Sat. Dec. 11. ***St. Georges Lake, Creswick.***
2005
Fri. Feb. 11. Speaker still to be decided.
Sat. Feb. 12. ***Malmsbury Reservoir and Gardens.*** Leader: Chris Morris
Fri. Mar. 11. Speaker still to be decided.
Sat. Mar. 12. ***Macedon Regional Park Foothills.*** Leader: Richard Piesse

2004 Committee - Chris Morris (President) Ph. 9885 4221; Rita Mills (Vice President and Public Officer) Ph. 54724553; George Broadway (Secretary) Ph. 5472 2513; Hans van Gemert (Treasurer) Ph. 5472 1082; Geraldine Harris (Newsletter Ed.) Ph. 5474 2244; Ern Perkins Ph. 5472 3124; Richard Piesse; Athol Dorman and Nigel Harland.

Subscriptions for 2004
Ordinary membership: Single $22, Family $30
Pensioner or student: Single $19, Family $24
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